



NEWSLETTER

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF THE MILITARY



BRIDGE TO BE DEDICATED HONORING TWO SD HEROES

The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs will be hosting a State Bridge Dedication Ceremony to honor Combat Veterans SSG Jason W. Montefering and SGT Jeremiah J. Boehmer.

The ceremony will be held Wednesday, November 11, 2020, at 9:00 am (CT) at the Parkston High School Auditorium (504 S. Wallace).

The James River Bridge on HWY 44 will be dedicated to Montefering and Boehmer, both of Parkston. SSG Montefering died in 2005 in Iraq from blast injuries. SGT Jeremiah Boehmer died in Iraq in 2006 of blast and shrapnel injuries.

Naming bridges in honor of our combat veterans who died while serving their country is a new initiative of Governor Kristi Noem and the South Dakota Departments of Military, Transportation, and Veterans Affairs.

“Whenever and wherever this nation has called, in times of darkness and danger, as well as in times of peace and prosperity, veterans have been there and have proudly carried the torch of liberty for all to see.” said Greg Whitlock, secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs.

“Our fallen heroes are no longer with us, but their memories live on in the hearts of their loved ones and our state,” said Whitlock. “Naming our South Dakota bridges in honor of our fallen will give us an opportunity of remembrance, reflection, and respect—for honoring the men and women who gave their lives in service to this nation. They cherished liberty and loved freedom enough to lay down their lives to preserve our way of life.”

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Sec. Whitlock Message	2
Veterans Day	3
Veterans Discounts	4
Brown Participates in Outreach ..	4
VA Breast Cancer Treatment	5
Housing Options for Veterans.....	6
BHSU Appreciation Game	7
Upcoming Events.....	8



MESSAGE FROM SDDVA SECRETARY WHITLOCK HONORING OUR HEROES

From Valley Forge to Afghanistan, through war and peace, valiant Americans have answered the call to duty with honor and dignity. These brave men and women, and their loved ones, have made significant sacrifices on behalf of our nation.

This Veterans Day, let us take time to honor the brave and selfless Americans who have served in the United States Armed Forces, and recognize their time, commitment, and sacrifices in order to protect the ideals and freedoms that we cherish. Defending our democracy is paramount. Our service members face a growing list of global challenges, making it that much more important that our nation supports those who have answered the call to serve.



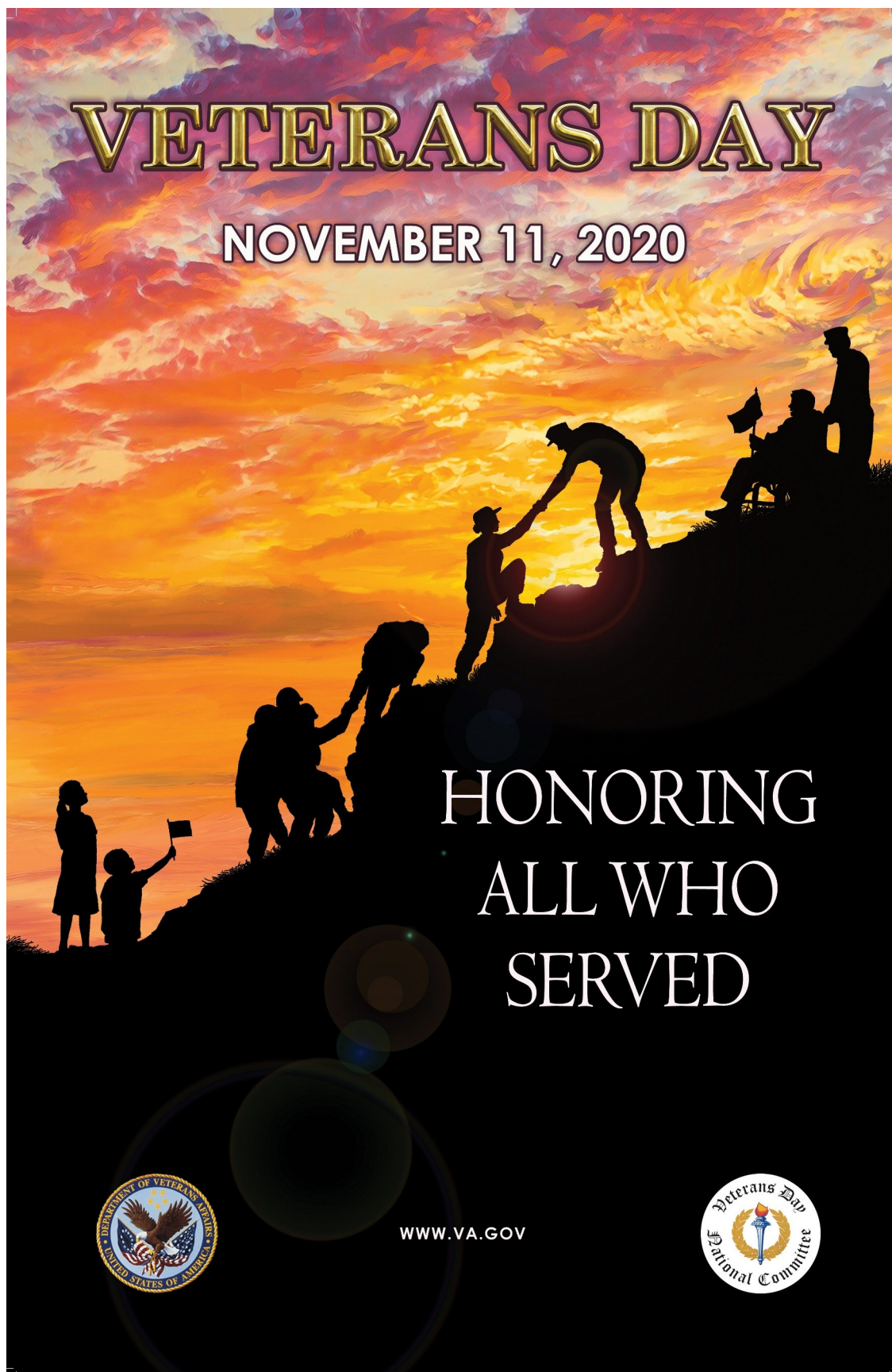
Let us also remember the sacrifices made at home by the families and loved ones of our service members. Beyond our gratitude and remembrance, our heroes and their families deserve support upon their return home and as they take on new challenges following their military service. Our gratefulness for their service must be reflected in our actions: by ensuring the availability of good jobs, high quality healthcare, educational opportunities, and housing.

We must never forget that America, as we know it, exists because of the sacrifices of our veterans. No matter how complicated war might be, it always comes down to the ones who fly the planes, man the ships, and carry the rifles. And our country's military has left a legacy like no other fighting force ever assembled. The uniform they wear, and the flag they carry, are held in esteem wherever they have served.

May God bless America's Veterans, and may God bless all Americans who remember, honor, and serve them.

Greg Whitlock, Secretary

South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs



WWW.VA.GOV



VETERANS DAY DISCOUNTS

Veterans Day 2020 is on Wednesday, Nov. 11th, 2020. The VA's Veterans Day discounts list will continue to be updated as they learn of more nationally available Veterans Day discounts, meals or other ways businesses and organizations want to give back to veterans.

Veterans Day 2020 Discounts



These Veterans Day discounts, free meals and other programs are being shared so that veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors are aware of all resources available to them.

Due to COVID-19, some organizations are now offering discounts to veterans all the time instead of their regular Veterans Day discounts. These adjustments help veterans take advantage of the discounts offered while avoiding the usual Veterans Day crowds.

Check out this link: <https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/80347/veterans-day-2020-discounts//>.

A new section at the bottom of the story on the link above will list all the year-round veterans discounts.

BROWN PARTICIPATES IN EXPERIENCE 2020

SDDVA Program Manager Erin Brown was a presenter at this year's Minnesota Military and Veteran Exchange Experience 2020 on-line training program.

Keystone Treatment Center was also one of the presenters.



VA/DUKE UNIVERSITY AND BAYLOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE LAUNCH PARTNERSHIP TO ENHANCE BREAST CANCER TREATMENT FOR VETERANS

In recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today it has launched a new strategic partnership with [Duke University](#) and [Baylor College of Medicine](#) towards building VA's [National Women Veterans Oncology System of Excellence](#), integrating the best of the public and private sectors to serve patients.

Through a shared commitment to transform cancer prevention, treatment and outcomes while providing highly coordinated, integrated patient centered care, this partnership will recruit the nation's top breast cancer oncologists to advance and improve health outcomes for women Veterans as well as launch new collaborative research programs.

"VA is steadfast in building bold and innovative partnerships such as this one with Duke and Baylor, which is consistent with VA's vision to address the public health crisis presented by cancer," said VA Deputy Secretary Pamela Powers. "It is among our top priorities to fight cancer, serve our Veterans, build world class partnerships and hire innovative and well-respected cancer care professionals."

In addition to prioritizing co-recruitment efforts, developing national tumor boards, and increasing Veteran access to clinical trials, VA, Duke University, and Baylor will create a multi-disciplinary steering committee for implementation of these partnerships.

The National Women Veterans Oncology System of Excellence will also partner with the National Cancer Institute, other federal agencies, academic organizations and pharmaceutical and healthcare technology companies to provide teleoncology, decentralized clinical trials, and personalized cancer care to women Veterans nationwide.

For more information on how VA is partnering to drive innovation in cancer care or to partner with VA, contact Cancer@va.gov.

The logo for Duke University, featuring the word "Duke" in a white serif font on a dark blue rectangular background.The logo for Baylor College of Medicine, featuring the text "Baylor College of Medicine" in white on a dark blue rectangular background.A banner for Baylor College of Medicine with the text "Baylor College of Medicine" in a dark serif font on a white background, with a blue horizontal bar at the bottom.

VA PARTNERSHIP HELPS SECURE PERMANENT HOUSING FOR HOMELESS VETERANS

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced their partnership with [Veterans Matter](#) has helped more than 4,000 veterans exit homelessness and move into permanent housing since 2012.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and VA's Supportive Housing program, known as [HUD-VASH](#), works with Veterans Matter to help veterans experiencing homelessness and who qualify for rental subsidies to cover the cost of security deposits.

"Collaborations with organizations like Veterans Matter is fundamental to achieving our goal of ending homelessness among veterans," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "We celebrate the more than 4,000 veterans that have stable housing as a result of selfless acts of kindness by people who believe every veteran deserves a place to call home."

From 2012 to 2016, the [partnership](#) helped to house 1,000 veterans and has since assisted 3,000 additional veterans, an increase of 200% during the past four years. Veterans who receive this financial assistance are able to move into approved housing quickly, often because Veterans Matter is able to provide the security deposits to the landlord within 24-48 hours.

Veterans Matter is a program of the non-profit organization [1Matters.org](#). Established in 2012, the program removes financial obstacles to securing stable housing for veterans experiencing homelessness in 25 states and the District of Columbia.

"As a nation, we have an obligation to help veterans who fall on hard times," said Ken Leslie, who founded Veterans Matter and once was homeless. "Our partnership with the VA demonstrates how the public and private sectors can unite to help veterans exit homelessness and reintegrate back into their families and communities."

The HUD-VASH program is a collaboration between HUD and VA that combines HUD housing vouchers with VA supportive services such as employment assistance, health care, mental health treatment and substance use counseling. The program enrolls more veterans who have experienced long-term or repeated homelessness than any other federal program.

Click on the underlined links to learn [how to get involved](#) in helping prevent and end veteran homelessness and about [VA's homeless programs](#).



HERO APPRECIATION GAME



Due to COVID concerns, this game has tentatively been rescheduled for

November 21, 2020, at 1:00 pm (MT)



BHSU FOOTBALL GAME

ATTENTION HEROES

• BHSU Athletics would like to invite all Veterans, Active Military Personnel, Law Enforcement, Firefighters, and EMS Personnel to the "Hero Appreciation Game" as the Yellow Jacket football team hosts South Dakota Mines at 1 PM at Lyle Hare Stadium in Spearfish. You are **strongly** encouraged to wear a mask during this event. Pay attention to signs in the stadium regarding social distancing and mitigation procedures. For more information regarding these safety procedures, visit: www.BHSU.edu/COVID.

Persons with disabilities requesting accommodations for this event can contact Colleen Mischke at 605-642-6269 or email: Colleen.Mischke@BHSU.edu.

 Black Hills State University

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov 11—SSG Jason W. Montefering and SGT Jeremiah Boehmer Fallen Hero Bridge Dedication—Parkston High School Auditorium—9:00 am (CT)
Nov 11—State Offices are closed
Nov 11—Veterans Day Program—Custer Veterans Memorial Park—11:00 am (MT)
Nov 11—Elk Mountain School Veterans Day Program—Edgemont—2:00 pm (MT)
Nov 11—Community Chicken Noodle and Chili Soup Feed—Hermosa American Legion Hall—5:00 pm (MT)
Nov 13—VABHHCS VSO Congressional Forum—Domiciliary Auditorium—Hot Springs VAMC—10:00 am (MT)
Nov 13—Virtual Legal Clinic—9:00 am—5:00 pm (CT)
Nov 21—BHSU Hero Appreciation Game—Lyle Hare Stadium—Spearfish—1:00 pm (MT)
Nov 26-27—State Offices are closed
Dec 8—Governor's State of the Budget Address—1:00 pm (CT)
Dec 14—Wreath Laying Ceremony—Capitol Lake Flaming Fountain—Pierre—11:00 am (CT)
Dec 24-25—State Offices are closed
Jan 12—Governor's State of the State Address—1:00 pm (CT)
Jan 13—SDDVA/SD Veterans Council Legislative Reception



Warriors Never Give Up are selling WNGU/Veterans Day Signs for \$25. If you are interested in buying any, please visit the link below:



<https://www.warriorsnevergiveup.org/product-page/veterans-day-yard-sign>

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